

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 13 and 14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 7-12 are canceled. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3 and 5 are allowed and that claims, 1, 2, 4, 6 and 14 may be given favorable consideration if they are rewritten or amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 6, 13 and 14 are amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,259,242 to Folta. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 13 recites, *inter alia*, "distance between each fastening means of the other-side rim section in the axial direction is greater than thickness of the fastening means of the one-side rim section." Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0049].

The passage of Folta relied on by the Office Action for disclosing a fastening means fails to teach or disclose that the distance between each fastening means of the other-side rim section in the axial direction is greater than the thickness of the fastening means of the one-side rim section. Accordingly, Folta fails to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claim 13.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 13 and the claims dependent therefrom, are patentable over the applied reference. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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